



General Assembly

January Session, 2017

Raised Bill No. 1026

LCO No. 5391



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-221a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2017*):

3 (a) For classes graduating from 1988 to 2003, inclusive, no local or
4 regional board of education shall permit any student to graduate from
5 high school or grant a diploma to any student who has not
6 satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty credits, not fewer than
7 four of which shall be in English, not fewer than three in mathematics,
8 not fewer than three in social studies, not fewer than two in science,
9 not fewer than one in the arts or vocational education and not fewer
10 than one in physical education.

11 (b) For classes graduating from 2004 to [2020] 2022, inclusive, no
12 local or regional board of education shall permit any student to
13 graduate from high school or grant a diploma to any student who has
14 not satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty credits, not fewer

15 than four of which shall be in English, not fewer than three in
16 mathematics, not fewer than three in social studies, including at least a
17 one-half credit course on civics and American government, not fewer
18 than two in science, not fewer than one in the arts or vocational
19 education and not fewer than one in physical education.

20 (c) [Commencing with classes graduating in 2021, and for each
21 graduating class thereafter, no local or regional board of education
22 shall permit any student to graduate from high school or grant a
23 diploma to any student who has not satisfactorily completed (1) a
24 minimum of twenty-five credits, including not fewer than: (A) Nine
25 credits in the humanities, including not fewer than (i) four credits in
26 English, including composition; (ii) three credits in social studies,
27 including at least one credit in American history and at least one-half
28 credit in civics and American government; (iii) one credit in fine arts;
29 and (iv) one credit in a humanities elective; (B) eight credits in science,
30 technology, engineering and mathematics, including not fewer than (i)
31 four credits in mathematics, including algebra I, geometry and algebra
32 II or probability and statistics; (ii) three credits in science, including at
33 least one credit in life science and at least one credit in physical science;
34 and (iii) one credit in a science, technology, engineering and
35 mathematics elective; (C) three and one-half credits in career and life
36 skills, including not fewer than (i) one credit in physical education; (ii)
37 one-half credit in health and safety education, as described in section
38 10-16b; and (iii) two credits in career and life skills electives, such as
39 career and technical education, English as a second language,
40 community service, personal finance, public speaking and nutrition
41 and physical activity; (D) two credits in world languages, subject to the
42 provisions of subsection (g) of this section; and (E) a one credit senior
43 demonstration project or its equivalent, as approved by the State Board
44 of Education; and (2) end of the school year examinations for the
45 following courses: (A) Algebra I, (B) geometry, (C) biology, (D)
46 American history, and (E) grade ten English.] Commencing with
47 classes graduating in 2023, and for each graduating class thereafter, no

48 local or regional board of education shall permit any student to
49 graduate from high school or grant a diploma to any student who has
50 not satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty-five credits,
51 including not fewer than: (A) Nine credits in the humanities, including
52 civics and the arts; (B) nine credits in science, technology, engineering
53 and mathematics; (C) one credit in physical education and wellness;
54 (D) one credit in world languages, subject to the provisions of
55 subsection (g) of this section; and (E) a one credit mastery based
56 diploma assessment.

57 (d) Commencing with classes graduating in [2021] 2023, and for
58 each graduating class thereafter, local and regional boards of education
59 shall provide adequate student support and remedial services for
60 students beginning in grade seven. Such student support and remedial
61 services shall provide alternate means for a student to complete any of
62 the high school graduation requirements or end of the school year
63 examinations described in subsection (c) of this section, if such student
64 is unable to satisfactorily complete any of the required courses or
65 exams. Such student support and remedial services shall include, but
66 not be limited to, (1) allowing students to retake courses in summer
67 school or through an on-line course; (2) allowing students to enroll in a
68 class offered at a constituent unit of the state system of higher
69 education, as defined in section 10a-1, pursuant to subdivision (4) of
70 subsection (g) of this section; (3) allowing students who received a
71 failing score, as determined by the Commissioner of Education, on an
72 end of the school year exam to take an alternate form of the exam; and
73 (4) allowing those students whose individualized education programs
74 state that such students are eligible for an alternate assessment to
75 demonstrate competency on any of the five core courses through
76 success on such alternate assessment.

77 (e) Any student who presents a certificate from a physician or
78 advanced practice registered nurse stating that, in the opinion of the
79 physician or advanced practice registered nurse, participation in
80 physical education is medically contraindicated because of the physical

81 condition of such student, shall be excused from the physical
82 education requirement, provided the credit for physical education may
83 be fulfilled by an elective.

84 (f) Determination of eligible credits shall be at the discretion of the
85 local or regional board of education, provided the primary focus of the
86 curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly to the subject matter
87 of the specified course requirements. The local or regional board of
88 education may permit a student to graduate during a period of
89 expulsion pursuant to section 10-233d, if the board determines the
90 student has satisfactorily completed the necessary credits pursuant to
91 this section. The requirements of this section shall apply to any student
92 requiring special education pursuant to section 10-76a, except when
93 the planning and placement team for such student determines the
94 requirement not to be appropriate. For purposes of this section, a
95 credit shall consist of not less than the equivalent of a forty-minute
96 class period for each school day of a school year except for a credit or
97 part of a credit toward high school graduation earned (1) at an
98 institution accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or
99 Office of Higher Education or regionally accredited, (2) through on-
100 line coursework that is in accordance with a policy adopted pursuant
101 to subsection (g) of this section, or (3) through a demonstration of
102 mastery based on competency and performance standards, in
103 accordance with guidelines adopted by the State Board of Education.

104 (g) Only courses taken in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, and that
105 are in accordance with the state-wide subject matter content standards,
106 adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to section 10-4, as
107 amended by this act, shall satisfy the graduation requirements set forth
108 in this section, except that a local or regional board of education may
109 grant a student credit (1) toward meeting the high school graduation
110 requirements upon the successful demonstration of mastery of the
111 subject matter content described in this section achieved through
112 educational experiences and opportunities that provide flexible and
113 multiple pathways to learning, including cross-curricular graduation

114 requirements, career and technical education, virtual learning, work-
115 based learning, service learning, dual enrollment and early college,
116 courses taken in middle school, internships and student-designed
117 independent studies, provided such demonstration of mastery is in
118 accordance with such state-wide subject matter content standards; [(1)]
119 (2) toward meeting a specified course requirement upon the successful
120 completion in grade seven or eight of any course, the primary focus of
121 which corresponds directly to the subject matter of a specified course
122 requirement in grades nine to twelve, inclusive; [(2)] (3) toward
123 meeting the high school graduation requirement upon the successful
124 completion of a world language course (A) in grade six, seven or eight,
125 (B) through on-line coursework, or (C) offered privately through a
126 nonprofit provider, provided such student achieves a passing grade on
127 an examination prescribed, within available appropriations, by the
128 Commissioner of Education and such credits do not exceed four; [(3)]
129 (4) toward meeting the high school graduation requirement upon
130 achievement of a passing grade on a subject area proficiency
131 examination identified and approved, within available appropriations,
132 by the Commissioner of Education, regardless of the number of hours
133 the student spent in a public school classroom learning such subject
134 matter; [(4)] (5) toward meeting the high school graduation
135 requirement upon the successful completion of coursework during the
136 school year or summer months at an institution accredited by the
137 Board of Regents for Higher Education or Office of Higher Education
138 or regionally accredited. One three-credit semester course, or its
139 equivalent, at such an institution shall equal one-half credit for
140 purposes of this section; [(5)] (6) toward meeting the high school
141 graduation requirement upon the successful completion of on-line
142 coursework, provided the local or regional board of education has
143 adopted a policy in accordance with this subdivision for the granting
144 of credit for on-line coursework. Such a policy shall ensure, at a
145 minimum, that (A) the workload required by the on-line course is
146 equivalent to that of a similar course taught in a traditional classroom
147 setting, (B) the content is rigorous and aligned with curriculum

148 guidelines approved by the State Board of Education, where
149 appropriate, (C) the course engages students and has interactive
150 components, which may include, but are not limited to, required
151 interactions between students and their teachers, participation in on-
152 line demonstrations, discussion boards or virtual labs, (D) the program
153 of instruction for such on-line coursework is planned, ongoing and
154 systematic, and (E) the courses are (i) taught by teachers who are
155 certified in the state or another state and have received training on
156 teaching in an on-line environment, or (ii) offered by institutions of
157 higher education that are accredited by the Board of Regents for
158 Higher Education or Office of Higher Education or regionally
159 accredited; or [(6)] (7) toward meeting the high school graduation
160 requirement upon the successful completion of the academic
161 advancement program, pursuant to section 10-5c.

162 (h) A local or regional board of education may offer one-half credit
163 in community service which, if satisfactorily completed, shall qualify
164 for high school graduation credit pursuant to this section, provided
165 such community service is supervised by a certified school
166 administrator or teacher and consists of not less than fifty hours of
167 actual service that may be performed at times when school is not
168 regularly in session and not less than ten hours of related classroom
169 instruction. For purposes of this section, community service does not
170 include partisan political activities. The State Board of Education shall
171 assist local and regional boards of education in meeting the
172 requirements of this section. The State Board of Education shall award
173 a community service recognition award to any student who
174 satisfactorily completes fifty hours or more of community service in
175 accordance with the provisions of this subsection.

176 (i) (1) A local or regional board of education may award a diploma
177 to a veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, of World
178 War II or the Korean hostilities, as described in section 51-49h, or of the
179 Vietnam Era, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, who
180 withdrew from high school prior to graduation in order to serve in the

181 armed forces of the United States and did not receive a diploma as a
182 consequence of such service.

183 (2) A local or regional board of education may award a diploma to
184 any person who (A) withdrew from high school prior to graduation to
185 work in a job that assisted the war effort during World War II,
186 December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946, inclusive, (B) did not receive a
187 diploma as a consequence of such work, and (C) has been a resident of
188 the state for at least fifty consecutive years.

189 (j) For the school year commencing July 1, 2012, and each school
190 year thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall create
191 a student success plan for each student enrolled in a public school,
192 beginning in grade six. Such student success plan shall include a
193 student's career and academic choices in grades six to twelve,
194 inclusive.

195 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10-4 of the general statutes is
196 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
197 *1, 2017*):

198 (a) Said board shall have general supervision and control of the
199 educational interests of the state, which interests shall include
200 preschool, elementary and secondary education, special education,
201 vocational education and adult education; shall provide leadership
202 and otherwise promote the improvement of education in the state,
203 including research, planning and evaluation and services relating to
204 the provision and use of educational technology, including
205 telecommunications, by school districts; shall adopt state-wide subject
206 matter content standards, provided such standards are reviewed and
207 revised at least once every ten years; shall prepare such courses of
208 study and publish such curriculum guides including recommendations
209 for textbooks, materials, instructional technological resources and
210 other teaching aids as it determines are necessary to assist school
211 districts to carry out the duties prescribed by law; shall conduct

212 workshops and related activities, including programs of intergroup
213 relations training, to assist teachers in making effective use of such
214 curriculum materials and in improving their proficiency in meeting the
215 diverse needs and interests of pupils; shall keep informed as to the
216 condition, progress and needs of the schools in the state; and shall
217 develop or cause to be developed evaluation and assessment programs
218 designed to measure objectively the adequacy and efficacy of the
219 educational programs offered by public schools and shall selectively
220 conduct such assessment programs annually and report, pursuant to
221 subsection (b) of this section, to the joint standing committee of the
222 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education,
223 on an annual basis.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	10-221a
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	10-4(a)

Statement of Purpose:

To revise the high school graduation requirements.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]